

SOUTH PORCH OF THE CHURCH OF NOTRE DAME, AT  
OBERWESEL, ON THE RHINE.



THE CHURCH OF "OUR LADY" AT  
OBERWESEL, ON THE RHINE.

If the visitors' book kept in the Rhenish Hotel may be taken as any guide, but few English tourists visit Oberwesel; and yet there is not a more beautiful spot to be found on the banks of that "exulting and abounding river"—the Rhine: the first view of the place from the Rhine is really enchanting: in the foreground stands a fine old gateway and the church; behind these one of those "castled crags" which here meet the eye at every turn; and in the extreme distance a glorious range of hills terminates the view: nor is any of the charm lost on a nearer approach. Close on the bank of the river stands the Church of "Our Lady," of which we give a south-east view. This church was consecrated in 1331, and there is perhaps no better specimen of German Gothic to be found upon the Rhine: nearly the whole of the detail is well preserved: the window tracery, of which there is a great variety, is curious, and of forms but rarely seen: the south porch has lately been partially restored: it is so excellent a specimen, and its detail so delicate, that we have thought it right to make it the subject of a separate illustration. The upper part of this porch has been destroyed, and is now finished by a flat pediment. On

the northern side of the church are some good cloisters, in which are several effigies of knights, prelates, and ladies "in their habits as they lived." The interior of the church has some portions of great excellence: the choir is simple, but of fine proportions—its height is 80 feet: the rood screen of stone it would be difficult to equal, and in the chancel is an altar screen of oak made to fold up: this is covered with the most elaborate ornament, consisting of rich niches, with small and delicately carved statues. We hope at some future time to make our readers better acquainted with these: in the meantime, we would strongly advise any of them who may propose to visit the Rhine, to devote at least one day to Oberwesel. There is enough to interest for a week any one who can enjoy the quiet of a German village. Besides the church, now briefly described, there is another at the opposite end of the place, of great merit: to say nothing of smaller matters, there are,—a good old gateway and a fine round tower, from the summit of which a glorious view may be obtained; a scramble up the crag on which stands the castle, to be amply repaid by a view down one of the most charming of valleys; and last, though not least, the homely comfort of the small hotel, which is worth re-

membering. At the time of our visit it presented a good picture of German life, made up with a sprinkling of students; some German ladies, whose quiet unaffected manners are their great charm; and, as the evening approached, some few of the more humble villagers. Again, we say to all who may visit the Rhine, give at least one day to Oberwesel.

SCENERY AND DIORAMAS.

At the *Lycæum* the scenery in Mr. Planché's new Easter piece, "The Queen of the Frogs," is scarcely so striking as for some former productions of the same class; but then, on the other hand, the writing is even more witty and sparkling than usual. The quicksilver lake and rocks, the royal gardens, and the marsh, which precede the last scene, are nevertheless charmingly painted. The piece as a whole is deservedly very successful.

The scenery in the new piece at *The Princess's Theatre*, called "The Alhambra," has not received from our contemporaries the commendation it deserves. We would especially mention a diorama from London to Spain, moving from the ceiling to the stage: the bird's eye view of the Exhibition Building at starting, Dover, and Paris, are capital. "Brompton-square by Moonlight" will be recognised by all who know that pleasant (once) suburban district; and the last scene, "The Fort of Cadix," does great credit to Messrs. Gordon and Lloyds, by whom the whole is painted.

DILAPIDATIONS.

ESSEX. V. GRAY.

THIS was an action before Mr. Baron Alderson to recover compensation in damages for the non-performance of an agreement to repair certain premises.

It appeared that the defendant, who is a builder, had taken the assignment of the lease of the house No. 13, Duke-street, St. James's, and it was now alleged that the house in question had been let out in lodgings, and also that the premises themselves had been permitted, by neglect, to fall into a wretched state of dilapidation. It was for the cost of the reparation of that dilapidation that the present action was brought, the sum claimed being 231*l*.

Mr. E. James, for the defendant, commented upon the effect of the testimony which had been produced in support of the plaintiff's case, which he contended had not gone to establish what was the state of the premises at the period when the defendant had taken possession of them in the year 1830—a fact of the utmost importance when the question was as to how much of the dilapidations a defendant was to be held liable for.

Mr. Baron Alderson having left the case to the jury, they returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages 100*l*.

CARRYING WATER LONG DISTANCES BY SYPHON.—A correspondent, Mr. B. Sargent of Doctor-street, Walworth-common, who expresses a needless fear of being overlooked by us because he is a working bricklayer, suggests that water may be transferred, say to a distance of 800 feet, from a pond to a tank, by means of a syphon pipe, which might be filled with water, in the first place, through an opening or branch pipe at its highest level while stop-cocks at the two extremities were turned so as to prevent its egress until the orifice by which it entered was closed: the air might then be allowed to pass off at each extremity, and the pipe be again filled up, when water from the pond would pass through the syphon in a stream, once let on, into the tank—sunk, of course, to a lower level than that of the water in the pond; and would only cease to do so when the water in both receptacles reached the same level, after which its action would be resumed whenever water was withdrawn from the tank by means of a common suction pump, as this would destroy the equilibrium; thus, in effect, constituting the tank a full well so long as the pond would supply it.